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Ken Robichaux

Majors' Foreign Relations Department

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Top Secret — Sensitive

Hands Across the Sea

by Ken Robichaux

(Director, Majors' Foreign Relations Department)

It has been a desire of mine for a long time to find a sales rep type who would give us examples of tidbits of reports which they file with their companies about us librarians out there in the trenches. And, voila, will wonders ever cease?! Here is just such a report sent to us by the incredibly generous, urbane, and correspondent par excellence, Albert Majors McClendon. Thank you to both Al and Ken! Now read on! — KS

READ ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS ONLY

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS CONSIDERED SENSITIVE AND MAY ONLY BE READ BY THOSE WITH A LEVEL IV SECURITY CLEARANCE OR HIGHER. UNAUTHORIZED DISSEMINATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE PENALTIES AND OR FINES COVERED BY, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS AND PARAGRAPHS OF THE MAJORS' SECRECY ACT:

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SECTION LXXIV: PARAGRAPHS 45G AND 79 B-R

Reference code Name: HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

FROM: Ken Robichaux, Director, Majors' Foreign Relations Department

SUBJECT: Visitors from the Republic of Georgia (formerly a province of the USSR)

BACKGROUND: A few years ago the state of Georgia in the United States and the Republic of Georgia, which is located between Asia and Europe next to Armenia, formed a very successful and active exchange program. As part of that pro-

Rumors

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5000 subscriptions to break even [and] reached barely a tenth of that level. Last fall the AAAS Board of Directors decided to seek a buyer that could afford to mount the type of aggressive marketing campaign needed to make the journal viable." According to Chapman & Hall's president, Dana Dreibelbis, "the company will continue to distribute the journal in partnership with the Dublin, Ohio-based OCLC Online Library Center but that it intends to use direct mail to promote [the journal] heavily to the medical community."

For your information, just out is *Recruiting, Educating, and Training Librarians for Collection Development* by Peggy Johnson and Sheila S. Intner (Greenwood, 1994). Chapters in this comprehensive book were written by Bill Katz, F. W. Lancaster, Terry Allison & Marion Reid, Gene Wiemers, Michael Keller, Sheila Intner, Paul Metz, Michael Ryan, Peggy Johnson, Thomas Nisonger, Elizabeth Futas, George Soete, Tony Ferguson, Whitney Coe & Joseph Consoli, and

Gay Dannelly. The chapters provide practical advice as well as in-depth analysis.

The Association of Research Libraries has announced the publication of the Fourth Edition of the hard-copy standard reference work for serials on the Internet, *The Directory of Electronic Journals, Newsletters, and Academic Discussion Lists*. Although many journals, newsletters, and scholarly lists may be accessed free of charge through Internet and affiliated networks, it is not always simple to find what is available. The new edition of the *Directory* is a compilation of entries for nearly 1800 scholarly lists and some 440 electronic journals, newsletters, and related titles such as newsletter-digests — an increase in size of about 70% since the third edition of April 1993 and 3.5 times since the first edition of July 1991. The directory provides instructions for electronic access to each publication. The objective is to assist the user in finding relevant publications and connecting to them quickly, even if he or she is not completely versed in the full range of user-access systems. To order contact ARL Publications, (phone) 202-296-2296, (fax) 202-872-0884, (e-mail)

osap@cni.org Pricing: \$54.00, PLUS postage/shipping/handling, prepaid, (inquire for rates depending on country). There is a discount to ARL member libraries (inquire).

The new *Guide to Cooperative Collection Development* (Collection Management and development guides, no.6) is available from ALA Books. Price is \$10 (\$9 to members), 800-545-2433. ISBN 0-8389-344-7.

Terry Carroll, the author, tells us that *The Copyright FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)* is found at [rtfm.mit.edu, directory/pub/usenet/news.answers/law/Copyright-FAQ](http://rtfm.mit.edu/directory/pub/usenet/news.answers/law/Copyright-FAQ), files part1 through part6.

Against the Grain keeps growing and growing and not just in page count, readers and contributors! Table of Contents are now mounted on the BUBL, Bulletin Board for Libraries in the UK thanks to Liz Chapman.

And if any of you are interested in editing any of the new features in this issue — **Profiles Encouraged, Facts & Figures**, or **Marketing to Libraries**, run, jump, yell, scream or otherwise make yourself known to Yr. Ed. ☛

gram librarians from the Morehouse School of Medicine's Multi-Media Center visited the Medical University Library in Tbilisi, the capitol of the Republic of Georgia, last December. Last month (July), the U.S. State Department arranged to have three librarians from the Tbilisi Medical University Library visit the Morehouse Multi-Media Center for three weeks to exchange information, procedures, and ideas. I was contacted by **Beverly Allen**, the director of the Multi-Media Center, and asked to spend one day with the librarians from Tbilisi showing them our bookstore and warehouse.

PEOPLE:

From the Tbilisi Medical University Library:

Marina Tchitchua, Director

Valentina Gogava, Classification Subject Specialist

Taliko Alaverdashvili, Reference Librarian

From the Morehouse School of Medicine's Multi-Media Center:

Beverly Allen, Director

Barbara Martin, Assistant Director

Gwendolyn Lewis, Acquisitions Librarian

Joe Swanson, Systems Librarian

Although the Republic of Georgia has long been famous for its beautiful landscape and warm hospitality, since the breakup of the Soviet Union the country has suffered through severe hardships due to an ongoing civil war. The food from its lush coast and fertile valleys goes unharvested because of the lack of gasoline transportation. (Russia has cut off all gasoline shipments after the breakup of the Soviet Union.) The Republic has been unsuccessful both in luring western business to the country because of the war, and in establishing their own currency. Because of this, Georgians are paid in military scrip which is worthless outside of their country. At the present time a Georgian doctor makes the equivalent of \$30 a month in our money, and one of the librarians told me that she made the equivalent of \$7 a month. Pollution in the capital city of Tbilisi is terrible due to the fact that most cars are running on kerosene (if they are running at all), food in the winter is scarce and heat almost nonexistent. The Medical University's Library (with a million and a half volume collection) has not had funds to purchase any books for the past three years, has no computers, and only one typewriter. One of the Georgians told me that she walked 10 miles back and forth to work every day.

The three Georgian librarians couldn't have been more friendly although they spoke very softly and rarely smiled (rarely, that is, until they had been with me for a few hours). Marina, the director, spoke no English. Valentina understood English but seemed a bit hesitant when speaking, although I thought that she did quite well. Taliko spoke English almost flawlessly, although she had learned British English and often had a hard time following our abbreviated speech patterns. I mainly communicated with Taliko (which rhymes with calico) who would listen to me for a few moments and then translate into Georgian what I had said to Marina. (Taliko also speaks Armenian and Russian.)

After meeting the Georgians at the Multi-Media Center and explaining what Majors did, I took the group to visit our bookstore and warehouse. Afterwards, we visited one of Atlanta's larger shopping malls. After window shopping until we dropped (everything was too expensive for them to buy) and having dinner, we then visited Dave and Busters (yes, they've opened a branch in Atlanta). As we walked through this warehouse size altar to video-mania, Taliko turned to me and said that she now understood why Americans were smiling all the time. "You have so many ways to have fun," she said.

As it turned out, the two most memorable things that happened when I took the Georgians out was the golf cart that picked us up in Dave and Busters parking lot (they thought the ride was great and they giggled all the way to the front door), and the electric windows in my car. Because it was so hot in the car when we got in, I would turn on the air conditioner and then open the back windows to let the hot air out. The first time that the back windows went down "all by themselves," Marina shouted "hocee pocee, hocee pocee!" When I asked Taliko what Marina was saying, Taliko informed me that Marina was saying "hocus pocus," meaning that my car was magic. They never got tired of seeing the windows go up and down.

When the night was over we departed with heavy hearts and promises to meet again. Taliko gave me one of her family treasures (a drinking horn decorated in silver) and a 50 ruble note (which, as they pointed out, was now worthless — although we tried to pay for dinner with it). We exchanged addresses, phone numbers, etc., hugged and promised to write. When I asked them what had impressed them the most about America, they said that everything was overwhelming, but that they hoped that their country would one day be as prosperous. I told them that I hoped so too. ☺

